

APPLICATION UNDER UNITED STATES PATENT LAWS

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Invention: INFORMATION RECORDING AND REPRODUCTION APPARATUS, INFORMATION
RECORDING AND REPRODUCTION METHOD, AND BROADCAST RECEIVING
APPARATUS

Inventor (s): ITO, Seigo

For correspondence Address



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Pillsbury Winthrop LLP

This is a:

- ☐ Provisional Application
- ☒ Regular Utility Application
- ☐ Continuing Application
 - ☐ The contents of the parent are incorporated by reference
- ☐ PCT National Phase Application
- ☐ Design Application
- ☐ Reissue Application
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SPECIFICATION

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

INFORMATION RECORDING AND REPRODUCTION APPARATUS,
INFORMATION RECORDING AND REPRODUCTION METHOD, AND
BROADCAST RECEIVING APPARATUS

5 CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is based upon and claims the
benefit of priority from the prior Japanese Patent
Application No. 2002-209652, filed July 18, 2002, the
entire contents of which are incorporated herein by
10 reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an information
recording and reproduction apparatus and an information
15 recording and reproduction method, for selective
recording/reproduction into/from a large-capacity
stationary recording medium and a detachable/portable
recording medium. Further, the invention relates to a
broadcast-receiving apparatus, which selectively
20 records and reproduces received information onto/from
the above recording media.

2. Description of the Related Art

In recent years, television receivers with high-
capacity hard disks, as well as portable recording
25 media have been developed. For example, HDDs (Hard
Disk Drives) of 80 GB are now not uncommon, and these
are of the stationary type. As a portable type,

DVD-RAM (Digital Versatile Disk-Random Access Memory) of 4.7 GB is commonly used, and they can be attached to the TV receiver.

5 In these types of TV receivers, programs or other input information can be recorded/reproduced to/from either/both an HDD and DVD-RAM. Further, information in the HDD can also be transferred to DVD-RAM, and vice-versa. However, due to the difference in disk capacity, various problems arise, particularly when
10 information is transferred from HDD to DVD-RAM. For example, the user might not know whether programs stored on the HDD have been copied onto DVD-RAM or not, or how many DVD-RAM disks are required for copying a certain program. When copying information to DVD-RAM,
15 the user may have to use several disks, thus involving mounting them separately, which is troublesome.

If a DVD-RAM disk for recording onto recording is not mounted, a so-called "just recording" function, in which the recording rate is automatically adjusted to
20 completely fill the disk, cannot be used.

Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication Nos. 11-7705, 2000-175139, and 5-282793, and the like disclose examples of the known art regarding a technique which performs recording and reproduction between the two
25 kinds of recording media.

However, Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 11-7705 relates to a technique in which data

recorded in a video CD (Compact Disk) is copied to DVD-RAM having a different sector size from that of the video CD.

Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 2000-175139
5 relates to the technique in which part of a video data file recorded in the detachable optical disk is copied as the file to on HDD.

Further, Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 5-282793 relates to the technique in which track
10 and sector numbers of the large-capacity optical disk are transformed corresponding to the track and sector numbers of the small-capacity optical disk.

However, in these publications of unexamined applications, no solutions are offered to the above-
15 described various problems which occur in recording the information recorded in HDD in DVD-RAM.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided an information recording and
20 reproduction apparatus comprising:

a recording and reproduction section configured to record and reproduce information in and from one recording medium of a first group and one recording medium of a second group, which has a smaller recording
25 capacity than the one recording medium of the first group; and

a registering section configured to reserve, in

the one recording medium of the first group, a recording region which corresponds to the recording capacity of the one recording medium of the second group.

5 According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of recording and reproduction information in and from one recording medium of a first group and one recording medium of a second group, which has a smaller recording capacity
10 than the one recording medium of the first group, the method comprising:

 selecting the type of one recording medium of the second group; and

 inputting the number of recording regions to be
15 reserved in one recording medium of the first group, each corresponding to the recording capacity of one recording medium of the second group; and

 preserving, in the recording region of the one recording medium of the first group, a number of
20 recording regions, each corresponding to the recording capacity of the one recording medium of the second group and the type selected, the number having been input.

 According to one aspect of the present invention,
25 there is provided an apparatus for receiving broadcast information, comprising:

 a recording and reproduction section configured to

record and reproduce broadcast information in and from
one recording medium of a first group and one recording
medium of a second group, which has a smaller recording
capacity than the one recording medium of the first
5 group; and

a registering section configured to reserve, in
the one recording medium of the first group, a
recording region which corresponds to the recording
capacity of the one recording medium of the second
10 group.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 shows a first embodiment of the invention,
and is a block diagram illustrating a television
receiver;

15 FIG. 2 is a flow chart illustrating characteristic
operation in the first embodiment;

FIGS. 3A to 3C illustrate an example of a display
screen in the first embodiment, respectively;

FIG. 4 shows a second embodiment of the invention,
20 and is a flow chart illustrating characteristic
operation;

FIGS. 5A and 5B illustrate an example of the
display screen in the second embodiment, respectively;

FIG. 6 illustrates a detail of a management table
25 in the second embodiment;

FIG. 7 illustrates a relationship between a file
system and a hard disk in the second embodiments;

FIG. 8 is a flow chart illustrating information recording operation to a virtual medium in the second embodiment;

5 FIG. 9 is a flow chart illustrating the information recording operation from the virtual medium to an optical disk in the second embodiment;

FIG. 10 shows a third embodiment of the invention, and is a flow chart illustrating information recording operation to a virtual medium;

10 FIG. 11 is a flow chart illustrating the information recording operation from the virtual medium to an optical disk in the third embodiment;

FIG. 12 illustrates an information recording state to the hard disk and an information recording state to the optical disk in the third embodiment; and

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FIG. 13 shows a fourth embodiment of the invention, and is a flow chart illustrating information recording operation to a virtual medium.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

20 Referring to the accompanying drawings, embodiments of the invention will be described in detail below. FIG. 1 shows a first embodiment of the invention, and schematically shows a television receiver.

25 In FIG. 1, a reference numeral 11 is an antenna. A television broadcast signal received by the antenna 11 is supplied to a tuner portion 12, a video signal of

a given channel is selected, and then the signal is supplied to a signal processing control portion 13.

The signal processing control portion 13 includes a CPU 15 (Central Processing Unit) which receives
5 operating information from an operating portion 14 to control the operation of the television receiver, an encoder portion 16 which performs encoding processing to the video signal, a decoder portion 17 which performs decoding processing of the video signal, a
10 file management portion 18, and an edit processing portion 19.

The video signal outputted from the tuner portion 12 is decoded with the decoder portion 17, converted into a format corresponding to an image display, and
15 then supplied to a display portion 20 to be used for the image display.

The signal processing control portion 13 is connected to an HDD 21 which records and reproduces information to a hard disk 21a and an optical disk
20 drive portion 22 which records and reproduces information to an optical disk 22a such as DVD-RAM. Further, external devices such as an audio-visual recording and reproduction device 23 and a digital camera 24 may be connected to the signal processing
25 control portion 13.

The signal processing control portion 13 performs a predetermined encode processing to the video signal

outputted from the tuner portion 12 by the encoder
portion 16, and the video signal can be selectively
recorded into the HDD 21, the optical disk drive
portion 22, and the audio-visual recording and
5 reproduction device 23.

The signal processing control portion 13 can also
cause the video signals outputted from the HDD 21, the
optical disk drive portion 22, the audio-visual
recording and reproduction device 23, and the digital
10 camera 24 to be selectively displayed on the display
portion 20.

Further, the signal processing control portion 13
can cause the video signal selectively outputted from
the HDD 21, the optical disk drive portion 22, the
15 audio-visual recording and reproduction device 23, and
the digital camera 24 to be selectively recorded in the
HDD 21, the optical disk drive portion 22, and the
audio-visual recording and reproduction device 23.

In the television receiver having the above-
20 described configuration, the characteristic operation
will be described below. A flow chart shown in FIG. 2
illustrates the operation informing a user how many
optical disks 22a are required when the information
recorded in the hard disk 21a is recorded into the
25 optical disk 22a.

When the processing is started (S2a), the signal
processing control portion 13 displays a title

selecting screen, in which the user selects a title of information to be recorded in the optical disk 22a among the information recorded in the hard disk 21a, on the display portion 20 in step S2b.

5 As shown in FIG. 3A, the titles of the information recorded in the hard disk 21a are listed in the title selecting screen. When the user selects a desired title among the listed titles on the screen, the selected title is separately displayed.

10 Then, in step S2c, the signal processing control portion 13 displays a medium specifying screen, in which the user selects the kind of optical disk 22a performing the recording, on the display portion 20.

15 As shown in FIG. 3B, the medium specifying screen lists the kinds of optical disk 22a, such as DVD-RAM or DVD-R (Recordable). The user selects a desired kind among the listed kinds on the screen. FIG. 3B shows a state in which DVD-RAM is selected.

20 As described above, when the title of the information to be recorded in the optical disk 22a among the information recorded in the hard disk 21a and the kind of the optical disk 22a in which the information is recorded are set, the signal processing control portion 13 calculates the necessary number of
25 optical disks 22a to display it on the display portion 20 (step S2d), and ends the processing (step S2e).

 As shown in FIG. 3C, the display screen of the

necessary number of optical disks 22a displays the title selected in step S2b, the kind of optical disk 22a selected in step S2c, and the necessary number of optical disks 22a.

5 According to the first embodiment, the function informing the user of the necessary number of optical disks 22a is provided when the information recorded in the hard disk 21a is recorded in the optical disk 22a, so that handing can be convenient for the user.

10 A second embodiment of the invention will be described below. A flow chart shown in FIG. 4 illustrates the registering operation for reserving a recording region (virtual medium) corresponding to a recording capacity of the optical disk 22a (or the
15 plurality of optical disks), in which the user specifies the kind, on the recording region of the hard disk 21a.

 When the processing is started (S4a), the signal processing control portion 13 displays a medium
20 specifying screen, in which the user selects the kind of optical disk 22a for which the recording region is reserved on the hard disk 21a, on the display portion 20 in step S4b.

 As shown in FIG. 5A, the type of optical disk 22a,
25 such as DVD-RAM or DVD-R, are listed in the medium specifying screen. The user selects the desired type from the list on the screen. FIG. 5A shows a state in

which DVD-RAM is selected.

As shown in FIG. 5B, in step S4c, the signal processing control portion 13 displays a screen, in which the user inputs virtual medium information indicating a name (virtual medium name) of the recording region reserved on the hard disk 21a, the number (creation number) of optical disks 22a, or the like, on the display portion 20. FIG. 5B shows an inputted state in which the virtual medium name is A and the number (creation number) of optical disks 22a constituting the virtual medium is two.

The signal processing control portion 13 decides whether or not the registering operation is completed in step S4d. When it is decided that the registering operation is not completed (NO), the processing is returned to the step S4b. When it is decided that the registering operation is completed (YES), the signal processing control portion 13 ends the processing (step S4e).

The contents of the registration are stored in the file management portion 18. As shown in FIG. 6, the file management portion 18 includes a management table. The management table stores various kinds of management information for managing the HDD 21, the optical disk drive portion 22, the audio-visual recording and reproduction device 23, the digital camera 24, and the like.

The contents of the registration are stored as virtual medium management information in HDD management information of the management table. Each piece of virtual medium management information relates to one
5 optical disk 22a, and is information such as a virtual medium name, a sequence number, the recording capacity, a size of the recorded region, and a file ID of the region which is allocated to the hard disk 21a.

In this case, the file ID constitutes a file
10 system indicating a location (leading address) and the size of the recording regions 1, 2, 3, ..., which are reserved on the hard disk 21a as shown in FIG. 7. Consequently, the recording region corresponding to one disk of the optical disk 22a can be reserved by
15 combining plural empty regions on the hard disk 21a.

A flow chart shown in FIG. 8 illustrates the operation of recording the information recorded in the hard disk 21a in the recording region reserved on the hard disk 21a, i.e., copying the information within the
20 hard disk 21a.

When the processing is started (step S8a) and the user specifies the virtual medium name in step S8b, the signal processing control portion 13 reproduces the information recorded in the hard disk 21a and records
25 it in the recording region having the smallest sequence number among the recording regions on the hard disk 21a, for constituting the specified virtual medium, in

step S8c.

In step S8d, the signal processing control portion 13 decides whether or not the information to be recorded in the specified virtual medium still remains. When it is decided that the information does not remain (NO), the processing is ended (step S8h).

When it is decided that the information remains in step S8d (YES), the signal processing control portion 13 decides whether or not the amount of information has exceeded the capacity of the recording region having the smallest sequence number in step S8e, and the processing is returned to the step S8c when the amount of information has not exceeded the capacity of the recording region (NO).

When it is decided that the amount of information has exceeded the capacity of the recording region having the smallest sequence number (YES), the signal processing control portion 13 decides whether or not the recording region of the next sequence number exists on the hard disk 21a in step S8f, and the processing is ended (step S8h) when it is decided that the recording region of the next sequence number does not exist on the hard disk 21a (NO).

When it is decided that the recording region of the next sequence number exists on the hard disk 21a (YES), the signal processing control portion 13 changes the recording region to the recording region of the

next sequence number in step S8g, and the processing is returned to the step S8c.

5 A flow chart shown in FIG. 9 illustrates the operation actually recording the information recorded in the virtual medium on the hard disk 21a in the optical disk 22a in the above-described way.

10 When the processing is started (step S9a) and the optical disk 22a is mounted on the optical disk drive portion 22 in step S9b, the signal processing control portion 13 reproduces the information from the recording region having the initial sequence number on the hard disk 21a and records it in the optical disk 22a mounted on the optical disk drive portion 22 in step S9c.

15 The signal processing control portion 13 decides whether or not the information is recorded in the recording region of the next sequence number in step S9d. When it is decided that the information is not recorded in the recording region of the next sequence number (NO), the processing is ended (S9e). When it is
20 decided that the information is recorded in the recording region of the next sequence number (YES), the sequence number is changed to the next number to transfer the processing to the step S9b.

25 According to the second embodiment, the user reserves the recording region corresponding to the kind and the number of disks of the optical disk 22a as the

virtual medium on the hard disk 21a, so that the processing, in which the information corresponds to the plural optical disks 22a and is divided on the hard disk 21a, can be performed without mounting the optical
5 disk 22a on the optical disk drive portion 22.

Since the information is recorded while the information is divided in every optical disk 22a on the hard disk 21a, when the information is actually recorded from the hard disk 21a to the optical disk
10 22a, the information of the recording region indicated by one sequence number of the hard disk 21a is only directly transferred to the optical disk 22a, and the task of recording the information by dividing it into the plural optical disks 22a can be largely simplified.

15 A third embodiment of the invention will be described below. A flow chart shown in FIG. 10 illustrates another example in which the information recorded in the hard disk 21a is copied in the recording region reserved on the hard disk 21a.

20 In FIG. 10, steps S10a to S10h are the same as steps S8a to S8h shown in FIG. 8. That is, in the specified virtual media, the recording region having the smallest sequence number is filled on the hard disk 21a, the recording region is changed to the recording
25 region having the next sequence number in step S10g. Thereafter, the signal processing control portion 13 subtracts the capacity c of a predetermined surplus

from the capacity C of the recording region having the next sequence number in step S10i.

Consequently, with reference to all the recording regions other than the recording region having the smallest sequence number on the hard disk 21a, the recording of the information is performed for the capacity obtained by subtracting the capacity c of the surplus from the capacity C of the recording region. In other words, with respect to all the recording regions other than the recording region having the smallest sequence number, information is recorded while the capacity c of the surplus remains.

A flow chart shown in FIG. 11 illustrates the operation of actually recording the information recorded in the virtual medium on the hard disk 21a in the optical disk 22a in the above-described way.

When the processing is started (step S11a) and the optical disk 22a is mounted on the optical disk drive portion 22 in step S11b, the signal processing control portion 13 decides whether or not the recording region reading the information from the hard disk 21a is the recording region of the initial sequence number in step S11c.

When the signal processing control portion 13 decides that it is not the recording region of the initial sequence number (NO), the signal processing control portion 13 records the predetermined amount of

latest portions (corresponding to the capacity c of the surplus) of the information, which is recorded in the recording region of the previous sequence number, in the optical disk 22a in step S11d.

5 After this step S11d, or when it is decided that it is the recording region of the initial sequence number (YES) in the above-described step S11c, the signal processing control portion 13 reproduces the information from the recording region having the
10 current sequence number and records it in the optical disk 22a mounted on the optical disk drive portion 22 in step S11e.

 Then, the signal processing control portion 13 decides whether or not the information is recorded in
15 the recording region of the next sequence number in step S11f. When it is decided that the information is not recorded (NO), the processing is ended (step S11g). When it is decided that the information is recorded
20 (YES), the sequence number is changed to the next value and the processing is returned to the step S11b.

 FIG. 12 shows a state in which the information including the above-described surplus is recorded in the hard disk 21a and a state in which the information is recorded from the hard disk 21a to the optical
25 disk 22a.

 On the hard disk 21a, the information is recorded in the whole recording region A1 having the smallest

sequence number, as shown by oblique lines. Further,
the information is recorded in a recording region A2
having the sequence number larger than that of the
recording region A1 so that the capacity c of the
5 surplus portion is zero.

The information of the recording region A1 is
directly recorded in the first optical disk 22a. In
the second optical disk 22a, the information of the
latest portion of the recording region A1 is recorded
10 in an amount corresponding to only the capacity c of
the surplus. Then, the information of the recording
region A2 is directly recorded in the second optical
disk 22a.

According to the third embodiment, when the
15 information is divisionally recorded in the plural
optical disks 22a, the latest portion of the
information recorded in the previous optical disk 22a
is recorded in the second or later optical disks 22a.
Therefore, when the optical disk 22a is changed in
20 reproducing the optical disk 22a, the image of the
latest portion of the previous optical disk 22a is
reproduced, and then a new video image is displayed, so
that it is convenient for the user.

A fourth embodiment of the invention will be
25 described below. A flow chart shown in FIG. 13
illustrates the operation of rate-converting the
information recorded in the hard disk 21a and recording

it in the recording region reserved on the hard disk 21a.

When the processing is started (step S13a), the selection of the title is performed in step S13b, and
5 the selection of the virtual medium is performed in step S13c, the signal processing control portion 13 determines total recording time of the information corresponding to the title in step S13d and determines total recording capacity of the virtual medium in
10 step S13e.

Then, the signal processing control portion 13 calculates an average recording rate during the encoding from the previously determined total recording time and total recording capacity in step S13f. In
15 step S13g, the signal processing control portion 13 reproduces the information recorded in the hard disk 21a, re-encodes the information so as to perform the rate-conversion, and records the information in the recording region having the smallest sequence number
20 among the recording regions constituting the specified virtual medium on the hard disk 21a.

The signal processing control portion 13 decides whether or not the information to be recorded in the specified virtual medium sill remains in step S13h.
25 When it is decided that the information does not remain (NO), the processing is ended (step S13l).

When it is decided that the information to be

recorded remains in step S13h (YES), the signal
processing control portion 13 decides whether or not
the amount of information exceeds the capacity of the
recording region having the smallest sequence number in
5 step S13i. When it is decided that the amount of
information does not exceed the capacity of the
recording region having the smallest sequence number
(NO), the processing is returned to the step S13f.
10 When it is decided that the amount of information
exceeds the capacity of the recording region having the
smallest sequence number (YES), the signal processing
control portion 13 decides whether or not the recording
region of the next sequence number exists on the hard
disk 21a in step S13j. When it is decided that the
15 recording region of the next sequence number does not
exist on the hard disk 21a (NO), the processing is
ended (step S13l).

When it is decided that the recording region of
the next sequence number exists on the hard disk 21a
20 (YES), the signal processing control portion 13 changes
the recording region of the information to the
recording region of the next sequence number in step
S13k, and the processing is returned to the step S13f.

In steps S13f and S13g, considering how the rate
changes during the encoding process by the video image,
25 it is necessary to perform the control by periodically
performing feedback to the encoding rate such that the

information does not exceed the recording capacity of the virtual medium.

According to the fourth embodiment, since the recording rate is automatically set on the basis on the total recording time of the information and the total recording capacity of the virtual medium, the handling is convenient for the user. Further by providing this function, the recording rate of the just recording can be calculated without actually mounting the optical disk 22a on the optical disk drive portion 22. The just recording can be performed on the virtual medium.